Amendments to the Specification

1.   Please amend the second full paragraph on page 9 of the specification, beginning at approximately line 8 and ending at approximately line 14, to read as follows:

Path protection switching (PPS) is generally achieved by using fields in the transmission overhead headers. In other words, the transmission specific information, i.e. destination node information, is included in each frame of data. As illustrated in FIG. 9 **(0900)**, during normal operations of a 1+1 protection scheme, signals are placed on both fibers **(0901, 0902)** so that the protection fiber **(0901)** carries a duplicate copy of the payload, but in a different direction, and as long as the signals are received at each node on these fibers (**910, 920, and 930** ~~0901, 0902~~), it is assumed all is well.

2.   Please amend the third full paragraph on page 9 of the specification, beginning at approximately line 15 and ending at approximately line 21, to read as follows:

When a problem occurs, as illustrated in FIG. 10 **(1000)**, such as a fiber cut between nodes B **(1020)** and C **(1030)**, the network changes from a ring (loopback) network to a linear network (no loopbacks). In this example **(1000)**, node B **(1020)** detects a break **(1003)** in the fiber, and sends an alarm to the other nodes on the working fiber **(1002)**. The effect of the signal is to notify node C of the problem. Since node C **(1030)** is not receiving traffic on the protection fiber from node B **(1020)**, it diverts its traffic onto the fiber. Node B **(1020)** then uses the protection fiber **(1001)** for this traffic. Node A (1010) continues to operate as normal.